

sub B
1. (Amended) An attenuated derivative of a pathogenic microorganism [with a cell wall comprising diaminopimelic acid (DAP)] which further comprises:

(a) an inactivating mutation in a native chromosomal essential gene [encoding an essential enzyme which catalyzes a step in the biosynthesis of DAP];

(b) a recombinant complementing gene on an extrachromosomal vector encoding a functional replacement for the essential enzyme, wherein the complementing gene can recombine to replace the defective chromosomal gene; and

(c) a desired gene on the extrachromosomal vector, wherein the desired gene is a recombinant gene encoding a desired gene product;

wherein the desired gene is stably maintained in a progeny population of the microorganism.